

Re. : Amendment and Response to Office Action mailed March 3, 2008
Appl. No. : 10/616,800
Filed : July 10, 2003

I. **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

The following listing of the claims replaces all prior versions and listing of the claims in the application:

21. (Currently Amended) A folding table that is movable between a working position and a storage position, the folding table comprising:

a table top including a first portion and a second portion;

a first support assembly connected to the first portion of the table top, the first support assembly being sized and configured to support the first portion of the table top above a surface;

a second support assembly connected to the second portion of the table top, the second support assembly being sized and configured to support the second portion of the table top above a surface; and

a hinge assembly connected to the first portion and the second portion of the table top, the hinge assembly being sized and configured to allow the first portion and the second portion of the table top to be moved between the working position and the storage position, the hinge assembly comprising:

a first hinge connector including a body and a connector portion, the body being connected to the first portion of the table top;

a second hinge connector including a body and a connector portion, the body being connected to the second portion of the table top;

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a hinge pin disposed through the connector portion of the first hinge connector and through the connector portion of the second hinge connector;

a locking member disposed within an opening in the second hinge connector, the locking member being movable between a locked position and an unlocked position; and

a cam portion of the first hinge connector that abuts against is sized and configured to contact the locking member when the locking member is in the locked position to maintain the table top locking member in the working locked position, the cam portion extending outwardly from the connector portion of the first hinge connector.

22. (Previously Presented) The folding table as in Claim 21, further comprising a locking mechanism that is sized and configured to move the locking member between the locked and unlocked positions.

23. (Previously Presented) The folding table as in Claim 22, wherein the locking mechanism includes a first end and a second end, the locking mechanism further comprising:
a first opening disposed proximate the first end of the locking mechanism, at least a portion of the hinge pin being disposed within the first opening;

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a second opening disposed proximate the first end of the locking mechanism, at least a portion of the locking member being disposed within the second opening; and
a handle disposed proximate the second end of the locking mechanism, the handle being sized and configured to be grasp by a user.

24. (Previously Presented) The folding table as in Claim 21, further comprising a frame connected to the table top, the frame including a first portion connected to the first portion of the table top and a second portion connected to the second portion of the table top, the first hinge connector being connected to the first portion of the frame and the second hinge connector being connected to the second hinge portion of the frame.

25. (Previously Presented) The folding table as in Claim 21, further comprising a first support brace including a first end connected to the hinge assembly and a second end connected to the first support assembly; and further comprising a second support brace including a first end connected to the hinge assembly and a second end connected to the second support assembly.

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26. (Currently Amended) A folding table that is movable between a working position and a storage position, the folding table comprising:

a table top including a first portion and a second portion;

a hinge assembly including a first portion connected to the first portion of the table top and a second portion connected to the second portion of the table top, the hinge assembly being sized and configured to allow the first portion and the second portion of the table top to be moved between the working position and the storage position;

a hinge pin connecting the first portion of the hinge assembly and the second portion of the hinge assembly;

a locking slot in the second portion of the hinge assembly, the locking slot including a first end disposed towards the hinge pin and a second end disposed away from the hinge pin;
and

a locking member disposed in the locking slot connected to the second portion of the hinge assembly, the locking member being selectively movable between a locked position in which the locking member engages the first portion of the hinge assembly and locks the hinge assembly in a first position and an unlocked position in which the first portion of the hinge assembly can rotate relative to the second portion of the hinge assembly and the hinge assembly is unlocked.

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27. (Currently Amended) The folding table as in Claim 26, wherein the first portion of the hinge assembly includes an outwardly extending flange with an engaging portion, the engaging portion engaging being sized and configured to engage the locking member when the locking member is in the locked position.

28. (Currently Amended) A folding table that is capable of being folded between a first position and a second position, the table comprising:

a table top including a first section and a second section;
a first support assembly connected to the first section of the table top;
a second support assembly connected to the second section of the table top; and
a hinge assembly interconnecting the first section of the table top and the second section of the table top, the hinge assembly being sized and configured to allow the table to be moved between the first position and the second position, the hinge assembly including a locked position and an unlocked position, the hinge assembly comprising:

a first hinge portion connected to the first section of the table top, the first hinge portion including a connector portion with an aperture;

a second hinge portion connected to the second section of the table top, the second hinge portion including a connector portion with an aperture;

a hinge pin extending through the aperture in the connector portion of the first hinge portion and the aperture in the connector portion of the second hinge portion to

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connect connecting the first hinge portion of the hinge assembly and the second hinge portion of the hinge assembly;

a locking member movable relative to the second hinge portion of the hinge assembly between a locked position and an unlocked position;

an engaging portion member of the first hinge portion of the hinge assembly, the engaging portion engaging the locking member when the locking member is in the locked position, the engaging portion being spaced apart from the locking member when the locking member is in the unlocked position to allow the table to be moved between the first position and the second position; and

a lock actuating mechanism that moves the locking member between the locked position and the unlocked position, the lock actuating mechanism including an aperture and the hinge pin extending through the aperture to connect the lock actuating mechanism to the hinge assembly.

a locking member of the second hinge portion of the hinge assembly, the locking member engaging the engaging member when the hinge assembly is in the locked position to secure the hinge assembly in the locked position.

29. (Currently Amended) The folding table as in Claim 28, wherein the lock actuating mechanism is locking member is movably connected to the second hinge portion of the hinge assembly, the locking member being movable between a first position in which the locking member is

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in the locked position engages the engaging member and the hinge assembly is in the locked position and a second position in which the locking member is in the does not engage the engaging member and the hinge assembly is in an unlocked position.

30. (Currently Amended) The folding table as in Claim 28, further comprising a displacement slot in the lock actuating locking mechanism, the locking member being disposed in the displacement slot, that is sized and configured to move the locking member between the locked position and an unlocked position.

31. (Currently Amended) The folding table as in Claim 30, wherein the lock actuating locking mechanism includes a first end and a second end, the aperture being disposed at least proximate the first end of the lock actuating mechanism, the lock actuating locking mechanism further comprising :

a first opening disposed proximate the first end of the locking mechanism, at least a portion of the hinge pin being disposed within the first opening;

a second opening disposed proximate the first end of the locking mechanism, at least a portion of the locking member being disposed within the second opening; and

a handle disposed proximate the second end of the locking mechanism, the handle being sized and configured to be grasp by a user.

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32. (Previously Presented) The folding table as in Claim 28, further comprising a frame connected to the table top, the frame including a first portion connected to the first portion of the table top and a second portion connected to the second portion of the table top, the first hinge connector being connected to the first portion of the frame and the second hinge connector being connected to the second hinge portion of the frame.

33. (Previously Presented) The folding table as in Claim 28, further comprising a first support brace including a first end connected to the hinge assembly and a second end connected to the first support assembly; and further comprising a second support brace including a first end connected to the hinge assembly and a second end connected to the second support assembly.

34. (Previously Presented) The folding table as in Claim 28, further comprising a frame connected to the table top, the frame including a first pair of side rails connected to the first portion of the table top and a second pair of side rails connected to the second portion of the table top; further comprising a first hinge assembly with a first hinge portion connected to one of the first pair of side rails of the frame and a second hinge portion connected to one of the second pair of side rails of the frame; and further comprising a second hinge assembly with a first hinge portion connected to the other of the first pair of side rails of the frame and a second hinge portion connected to the other of the second pair of side rails of the frame.

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35. (Previously Presented) The folding table as in Claim 34, wherein a single hinge pin connects the first hinge portion and the second hinge portion of the first hinge assembly, and connects the first hinge portion and the second hinge portion of the second hinge assembly.

36. (Previously Presented) The folding table as in Claim 34, further comprising a first support brace including one end connected to the first hinge assembly and the second hinge assembly, and another end connected to the first support assembly; and further comprising a second support brace including one end connected to the first hinge assembly and the second hinge, and another end connected to the second support assembly.

37. (Previously Presented) A table comprising:
a table top including a first table top section and a second table top section, the table top being positionable between a folded position and unfolded position;
a table frame connected to the table top and including a first side rail, the first side rail including:
a first elongated rail portion; and
a second elongated rail portion;
a hinge assembly pivotally interconnecting the first rail portion and the second rail portion and being positionable between a first position in which table top is positioned in the

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folded position and a second position in which the table top is position in the unfolded position, the hinge assembly including:

a first connector including:

a first flange including a first cam portion; and

a second flange including a second cam portion;

a second connector including:

a third flange disposed at least partially between the first and second flanges; and

a fourth flange disposed at least partially between the first and second flanges; and

a pivot pin pivotally connecting the first, second, third, and fourth flanges;

a locking pin movable among a plurality of positions; and

a lever disposed at least partially between the first and second flanges, disposed at least partially between the third and fourth flanges, and pivotally connected to the pivot pin; the lever being sized and configured to guide the locking pin among a plurality of positions, including a first position in which the locking pin engages the first cam portion and the second cam portion and a second position in which the locking pin is spaced apart from the first cam portion and the second cam portion.

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38. (Previously Presented) A table as recited in claim 37, wherein the lever includes a first aperture, the third flange includes a second aperture, and the fourth flange includes a third aperture and wherein the locking pin is at least partially disposed within each of the first, second, and third apertures.

39. (Previously Presented) A table as recited in claim 37, wherein the lever includes a first elongated aperture having a pair of opposing rounded ends, the third flange includes a second elongated aperture having a pair of opposing rounded ends, and the fourth flange includes a third elongated aperture having a pair of opposing rounded ends and wherein the locking pin is at least partially disposed within each of the first, second, and third elongated apertures.

40. (Previously Presented) A table as recited in claim 39, wherein the locking pin is disposed proximate one of the opposing ends of the first elongated aperture when the locking pin is in the first position; wherein the locking pin is disposed proximate the other opposing end of the first elongated aperture when the locking pin is in the second position; wherein the locking pin is disposed proximate one of the opposing ends of the second elongated aperture when the locking pin is in the first position; and wherein the locking pin is disposed proximate the other opposing end of the second elongated aperture when the locking pin is in the second position.

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41. (Previously Presented) A table as recited in claim 37, wherein the lever further comprises an anchoring portion including a first receiving portion and a second receiving portion.

42. (Previously Presented) A table as recited in claim 41, wherein the first receiving portion comprises a first groove having a generally concave configuration and the second receiving portion comprises a second groove having a generally concave configuration.

43. (Currently Amended) A table comprising:
a table top including a first table top section and a second table top section, the table top being positionable between a folded position and unfolded position;
a table frame including:
a first rail portion; and
a second rail portion;
a hinge assembly pivotally interconnecting the first rail portion and the second rail portion and being positionable between a first position in which table top is positioned in the folded position and a second position in which the table top is positioned in the unfolded position, the hinge assembly including:
a first connector; and
a second connector pivotally connected to the first connector;

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a locking pin movable among a plurality of positions, including a first position in which the locking pin releasably locks the hinge assembly when the table top is position in the unfolded position; and

a lever including an aperture, the locking pin being disposed within the aperture;
wherein movement of the lever results in movement of the locking pin relative to the
aperture; and

wherein an inner surface of the aperture engages the locking pin and moves the
locking pin among the a first aperture, the first aperture sized and configured to guide the
locking pin among a plurality of positions when the lever is being moved.

44. (Previously Presented) A table as recited in claim 43, wherein the lever further comprises an anchoring portion including a first receiving portion and a second receiving portion.

45. (Previously Presented) A table as recited in claim 44, wherein the first receiving portion comprises a first groove having a generally concave configuration and the second receiving portion comprises a second groove having a generally concave configuration.

46. (Currently Amended) A table comprising:
a blow-molded plastic table top including a first table top section and a second table top section, the first table top section and the second table top section being constructed from
blow-molded plastic and including an upper surface, a lower surface and a hollow interior

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portion that are integrally formed during the blow-molding process; the first table top section and the second table top being positionable between a folded position and unfolded position;
a table frame including:

a first metal rail connected to the first table top section portion; and

a second metal rail connected to the second table top section portion;

a hinge assembly pivotally interconnecting the first rail portion and the second rail of the table frame, the hinge assembly comprising: portion;

a first hinge connector connected to the first rail;

a second hinge connector connected to the second rail;

a hinge pin connecting the first hinge connector and the second hinge connector;

a locking slot in the second hinge connector;

a locking pin movable within the locking slot being a locked position and an unlocked position; and

an engaging member of the first hinge connector that engages the locking pin when the locking pin is in the locked position, the engaging member being spaced apart from the locking pin is in the unlocked position, and

a locking pin movable among a plurality of positions, including a first position in which the locking pin releasably locks the hinge assembly when the table top is position in the unfolded position; and

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a lever that is movable between a first position and a second position, the lever including an engaging surface that engages the locking pin to move the locking pin between the locked position and the unlocked position, sized and configured to guide the locking pin among the plurality of positions.

47. (Currently Amended) A table as recited in claim 46, further comprising an aperture in the lever, the engaging surface forming at least a portion of an inner surface of the aperture, wherein the lever includes a first aperture sized and configured to guide the locking pin among a plurality of positions.